

## REMARKS

By this paper, claim 86 has been canceled and claims 9, 61 and 72 have been amended. Claims 9-13, 15, 26-46, 48, 49, 56, 61, 62, 70, 72-79 and 87-93 are pending.

In the final Office action dated April 7, 2004, claim 61 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 second paragraph. In response thereto, claim 61 has been amended to recite certain endpoints of the plurality of endpoints being offset longitudinally from other endpoints of the recited plurality of endpoints. As such, it is believed that claim 61 now satisfies the requirement of § 112.

In the outstanding final Office action, claims 9-13, 15, 29-33, 35-40, 42, 56, 61, 62, 70, 72, 86, 88-90, 92 and 93 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Kugler et al. (6,280,466). Additionally, claims 41, 87 and 91 were rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kugler in view of Dehdashtian et al. (6,368,345). Notably, claim 86 was rejected in view of the Kugler et al. reference as teaching attaching structure that attaches an expandable frame to a graft component at discrete locations on the graft component. With reference to Col. 11, lns. 29 et seq. of the Kugler et al. reference, however, it is respectfully submitted that Kugler does not teach a frame that is longitudinally separated from a graft and attached to the graft at discrete locations as is recited in each of the pending claims. Rather, Kugler merely teaches an aortic stent including longitudinal struts 55, such struts being shown as attaching portion 50 to a graft, as well as a cranial zone 52 of the stent which is attached about a full circumference of a graft opening. As such, Kugler et al. clearly does not teach an endovascular graft including or a method involving an endovascular graft including an expandable frame wherein attaching structure attaches the expandable frame to a graft component at discrete locations on the graft component so that less than an entirety of a graft circumference is affixed to the attaching

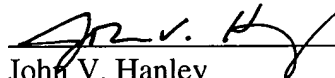
structure. Therefore, it is believed that each of independent claims 9 and 72 the claims depending therefrom define patentable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has attempted to completely respond to the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office action. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP



John V. Hanley  
Registration No. 38,171

JVH/kst  
Fulwider Patton Lee & Utecht, LLP  
Howard Hughes Center  
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
Tele.: (310) 824-5555  
Fax: (310) 824-9696  
Customer No. 24201  
54757.1